explosives, action is taken by the Department of Explosives to suspend/cancel the licence. In addition to this, inspections of licensed premises are carried out by the officers of Department of Explosives regularly.

The Chief Controller of Explosives has issued instructions to all the Circle Offices to strictly monitor the explosives transaction. Further, under Rule 179 of the Explosives Rules, 1983, in addition to Chief Controller of Explosives, District Magistrate, Executive Magistrate subordinate to the District Magistrate, Commissioner of Police and Police Officer of the rank not below that of Sub-inspector, Chief Inspector of Mines and Officer subordinate to him are also empowered for search and seizure of explosives for violation of Explosives Rules.

Production of rubber

3664. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production and consumption of rubber in India, State-wise;

(b) the total volume of export and import of rubber; and

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government for plantation of rubber in non-traditional tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI):

(a) State-wise production of Natural Rubber in India during 2000-2001 is given below:-

in tonnes

State	Production
Kerala TamilNadu	579866
North Eastern States	21611
Other States	14476
	14452
Total:	630405

State-wise consumption of Natural Rubber during 2000-2001 is as under:—

(in tonnes)

State/Union Territory	Consumption
Kerala	88221
Punjab	82843
Maharashtra	68344
U.P.	55684
West Bengal	43258
Haryana	38638
Rajasthan	35867
Gujarat	35107
Tamil Nadu	32588
Karnataka	31233
Madhya Pradesh	27732
Orissa	24072
Goa and Daman	23552
Andhra Pradesh	19906
Delhi	18360
Pondicherry	2531
Bihar	1304
Others	2235
Total:	631475

(b) During 2000-2001, 13.356 tonnes of Natural Rubber was exported and 8970 tonnes imported.

(c) Yes, Sir. For plantation of rubber in non-traditional tribal areas, Govt, of India through Rubber Board is implementing a Block Plantation Scheme in collaboration with the concerned State Governments.

Focus — Africa Programme

3665. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced 'Focus—Africa Programme';

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expected growth in India's trade with Africa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that Government has announced "Focus—Africa Programme" on 31st March, 2002 along with EXIM Policy for the years 2002—2007. During the year 2000-2001 India's exports to Sub-Saharan African Region was 1809 million US $. The expected compound growth of exports is at the rate of 20% per annum. It plans to double the exports in the next 4-5 years. The salient features of the programme arc as under:

(i) The main objectives of the programme will be to increase interactions between the two regions by identifying the areas of bilateral trade and investment.